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# The Elba Clipper

Volume 103, Number 30

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, January 6, 2000

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

## Elba area residents ring in Y2K

by Linda Hodge, Staff Writer

In an event like none before, the City of Elba rang in the new year, century and millennium last Friday night with a New Year's celebration on the historic downtown square.

"This was a big event because we were going from one century and millennium to another," said Kaye Whitworth, executive director of the Elba Chamber of Commerce. "We wanted to plan a celebration so the people of Elba could enjoy this unusual event together."

Almost immediately after the conclusion of the annual Christmas festival, a planning committee was formed for the New Year's Celebration.

"I want to thank the members of this committee," said Whitworth. "We didn't have a lot of time to plan the celebration, but everyone did their part and it came together as a great success."

Whitworth said not only was the celebration, "Countdown at the

Courthouse," a great success, but the people of Elba seemed to really appreciate the effort put towards its planning. And, she said the citizens showed their appreciation with the wonderful turnout of what she estimated to be approximately 1,000 to 1,200 people.

During the nearly 4-hour celebration, the crowd was entertained by several local musicians, vocalists and church groups. They also had an opportunity to by souvenir items symbolizing the special event, as well as, have their picture made in front of the historic courthouse with the date imposed on the photo.

Then, at midnight, the celebration reached its climax.

As the spectators gathered around the front of the courthouse, a lighted ball was dropped as everyone counted down the final ten seconds to the new year, century and millennium. Once the ball reached bottom, the crowd cheered and sang "Auld Lang Syne" as balloons were released.

The evening ended with a spectacular 30-45 minute fireworks show provided by The National Security Group in honor of Jack R. Brunson's retirement.

"It was a great ending for a new beginning," Whitworth said. "To see everyone enjoy the evening so much made it worth all the hard work."

She said there were so many people who contributed to the celebration's success. Without these people and organizations, Whitworth said the event would not have been possible. She expressed thanks to Ken English for making the countdown ball. The Peoples Bank for donating the "Countdown at the Courthouse" balloons, and especially to the City of Elba and Electric Department who work so diligently to make sure everything worked smoothly throughout the evening.

"The city and electric department were so willing to work with us on the things we wanted to do," Whitworth said. "We could never thank them enough for all the help they gave us."

As for the future of New Year's celebrations in the City of Elba, Whitworth said it is possible that the chamber will sponsor the dropping of the ball each New Year's Eve to ring in the new year here in Elba, but she would have to talk with city officials before making a definite decision.

"I have only received good remarks about the celebration," Whitworth said. "Quite simply, we could not have asked for or expected a better night."



**DROPPING THE BALL...** At Midnight last Friday night, the citizens of Elba said goodbye to 1999 with the dropping of this lighted ball from the top of the historic courthouse in downtown Elba. During the "Countdown at the Courthouse" celebration, residents gathered to enjoy the entrance of a new year, century and millennium. Once the ball dropped, everyone joined in the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" which was followed by a spectacular fireworks show.

## EMA reports Y2K roll-over causes no problems locally or statewide

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

The new year, Y2K rolled over in Alabama with state and local officials reporting no problems.

Officials with the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) have received no reports of any Y2K related problems as the new year began at 12:00 a.m. central standard time. State EMA officials worked with emergency coordinators throughout the day and night monitoring information sources as the new year rolled overseas and into the eastern time zone.

"We've been monitoring the situation and are pleased to report that no major problems occurred in Alabama and none were reported on the east coast from the National

Y2K Coordination Center," said Lee Helms, Executive Operations Director. "However, we'll continue to have EMA staff and emergency coordinators in place to respond to any potential problems just in case."

Mr. Helms will continue to give Governor Don Siegelman regular updates on Y2K activities. Activation of the State Emergency Operations Center will continue; however, staff could be reduced depending on the level of activity.

Locally, John Tallas, director of Coffee County's Emergency Management Agency, manned the EMA office in New Brockton through the new year roll over and reported no Y2K difficulties occurred in the county or area towns and cities.

## Area utilities reported no Y2K problems and all is go for 2000

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

The City of Elba Electrical Department reported that it rolled over the clocks for the year 2000 without experiencing any power disruptions.

The Elba Water & Electric Department began twelve month ago planning and preparing its system to handle the Y2K rollover.

Elba worked closely with its power supplier, Alabama Electric Cooperative, in going through a comprehensive checklist to ensure a smooth transition into the new year. The AEC began planning for Y2K in 1996.

The Elba Electrical System serves 1,783 consumers on 72 miles of power lines.

Superintendent James E. Grimes expects no problems to pop up in the near future as a result of entering the new millennium.

Covington Electric Cooperative (CEC) employees began preparing months ago for the Year 2000 rollover. Preparation included tedious planning and inventorying their operations and other systems that could possibly fail because of the Y2K computer glitch. But the challenge went beyond testing internal computer systems; it also involved working closely with suppliers to ensure their operations met Y2K readiness guidelines and participating in simulations and drills to ensure CEC operations met Y2K readiness standards. CEC's preparations proved successful when it sailed through the Year 2000 transition trouble free.

Planning for potential threats, whether it is a hurricane or a computer glitch, is standard policy at Covington Electric Cooperative. As a rural, member-owned electric cooperative, CEC is committed to

providing reliable energy to the people it serves. Contingency plans to handle unexpected challenges are continuously updated to ensure uninterrupted service to CEC members.

Covington Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Sanford, AL, serves approximately 21,000 members on 2,504 miles of line. CEC serves Covington, Coffee, Crenshaw, Dale, Geneva and Escambia counties of Alabama, and the municipalities of Brantley, Carolina, Dozier, Gantt, Heath, Kinston, Red Level, River falls, Samson and Sanford. CEC is one of 21 member-owners that purchase wholesale power from Alabama Electric Cooperative, a generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Andalusia.

South Alabama Electric Cooperative headquartered in Troy, AL also made good on Y2K promises.

SAEC and its employees are pleased to announce that their hard work and diligence paid off as the clock struck midnight and the new millennium began.

As the service area rang in 2000, the electric distribution system of South Alabama Electric Cooperative experienced no Y2K related power failures.

"Thanks to the planning and testing of the equipment and our operations, we expect smooth sailing from now and into the future," Max Davis, general manager of South Alabama Electric said. "At the cooperative, we are committed to providing our members with the quality electric service they have come to expect over the last 62 years."

Anyone with questions or concerns should call South Alabama Electric at 1-800-556-2060.

## POLICE CHIEF CHARLES DRIGGERS HANDS IN RESIGNATION

### New Brockton council deals with EMS problem

by Marvin McLwain, Editor

The New Brockton Town Council held its first meeting of the Year 2000 Monday evening with several of the town's citizens in attendance.

Shortly after the meeting began, Mayor Britt Lee, officially announced the resignation of New Brockton's police chief, Charles Driggers. He said that Driggers' resignation was effective as of last Thursday, Dec. 30, 1999.

Jerry Gilbert has been appointed as acting chief of the police department and will serve in that capacity until a new chief is appointed.

"We will advertise for a new police chief," said Lee. "When we have some applications and everything is in order, we will proceed with securing a new police chief."

Councilman Charles Cole commented, "I would appreciate it if you [Mayor Lee] would stress the fact that we did not get rid of him. I've been hearing comments that 'Ya'll got rid of the chief.'"

"He came in last Thursday and signed a letter that he resigned from

the police department, and that was it," said Mayor Lee.

Members of the council present (Council member Linda Gilbert was absent due to sickness) wasted little time in getting down to business and flowing smoothly through the eleven-item agenda.

After opening and reviewing the four bids received on the cab and chassis for the street department, the council settled on the low bid submitted by Family Ford Sales Incorporated of Florence, Ala. Their bid was \$19,162 for a new 2000 Ford 350 with a 6.8 Liter engine and provisions on the transmission for the installation of a PTO (power take off).

Other bids submitted were from Jim Cook Ford of Elba (a used vehicle), Steel City Pontiac GMC of Birmingham, and Ed Sherling of Enterprise.

Councilman Ricky Strickland was asked to review the specs and make sure the cab and chassis will be compatible with the body which the town will install on the unit.

City Clerk Annette Williams was

asked to check on financing the vehicle either through Ford Motor Credit or local financing through the local bank which ever is best for the town.

The next order of business was one very important to the citizens of New Brockton and the surrounding area. It concerned emergency medical services.

Mayor Lee and the council reviewed the provisions of a tentative contract with Coffee County EMS for providing these services to the town and surrounding area.

Prior to discussing the proposal, Mayor Lee commented, "As you know, we have been working through the county commission for some forty-five days now trying to see if we can get emergency service to the people of New Brockton."

Mayor Lee eluded to a couple of meetings involving state, county and local leaders that were held to address this problem both on a short term basis and to find a long term solution.

The mayor stressed the fact that the following is a "short term fix" to the problem.

The town of New Brockton will furnish one of the ambulances (once operated by the New Brockton Rescue Squad) to Coffee County EMS for a fee of \$1 for a nine month period. EMS will be responsible for the vehicle, all insurance, and all vehicle repairs minus the power train (engine, transmission & rear end). There will be a thirty-day grace period, upon acceptance of the proposal, on all repairs in which the city will be responsible for.

The vehicle (ambulance) will be primarily used on New Brockton runs and would only be used for transfers if they (EMS) had no other vehicle available. It was also noted by the mayor that EMS would welcome any assistance from local certified EMT (emergency medical technicians) that had served with the New Brockton Rescue Squad.

In addition to the above, there will be a \$1,000 per month (nine months) supplement made to EMS by the county with the agreement being retroactive to January 1, 2000. A thirty-day cancellation notice would be required by both

parties involved in the equipment lease agreement.

Upon transfer of the ambulance to EMS, it will be inspected by all parties involved, to include state licensing authorities. All normal ambulance equipment (oxygen, stretcher, etc.) will be included in the lease, and upon termination of the agreement, the ambulance will be returned to New Brockton in the same condition as received.

"The cost to the town of New Brockton will be the initial cost of the repairs to the vehicle, and if any, power train repairs that are required while on lease," said Lee. "That is if the county commission will subsidize the \$1,000 per month cost that EMS is asking for the service."

During the discussion of the proposed agreement, Councilman Ron McMonagle commented that the county commission had indicated it would accept a short term agreement of this nature.

It was pointed out that the area of service will not be the town only but will include the area (rural portion of the county) once served by the New Brockton Rescue Squad. McMonagle noted that response

Please See EMS Page 2

## NOTICE

The administration of the Elba Nursing Home has placed into effect a visitor restriction. There will be no routine visiting of residents until further notice. No children please! Due to the widespread cases of flu, pneumonia, and respiratory infections in the community, visitation is being restricted. All visitors must report to the nurse's station for further instruction. Cooperation in this matter would be appreciated.



## EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS  
With Ferrin Cox

Well the world survived the Y2K hype, much to the disappointment of many. Of course, before daylight on New Year's Day, these same doomsday folks were hedging their bets by saying the world really wouldn't collapse until Monday morning when the banks and other financial markets started trying to do business. When that didn't come to pass anywhere in the world, they had decided it might take several weeks or months for the world to collapse. Now you can watch for them to say oops, the dates were wrong and it will be at the first of the year 2001 which is really the new millennium. It is regretful that so many folks got disappointed, but more regretful that their outlook on life is focused on the gloom and not on enjoying what God has given us.

Actually we did have some concerns about major problems relating to the turning of the new year. However, our concerns were about the nuts who might select that time to disrupt society for attention or whatever by exploding bombs, etc. Thank goodness these fears were also groundless and unnecessary.

The question was asked Monday morning, "what a person should do today to improve his or her business practices, etc. in the new year?" There was no clear answer coming from this corner, but it did start the brain ticking on the subject. Probably the best New Year's Resolution of any of us could make would be to stay in a constant mode of self improvement and fine tuning our habits, both business and personal, year round. Making little adjustments, one at a time, would better suit the conservative nature of the South and should have a better chance of surviving the initial good intentions of soon forgotten New Year's Resolutions.

During the holiday season, our cup runneth over! So-o-o-o many of the good cooks in Elba allowed us the privilege of tasting the delightful goodies from their kitchens. Some left holiday treats on the desk when we were out wandering around town, others placed their samples in our grubby hands with a smile. All were appreciated. We are very lucky to live among such talented and giving people. May God bless each of you richly!

The millennium ball was dropped in Elba as well as in New York. Maybe the one here wasn't as big as the Yankee one, and there were not as many people and TV cameras watching, but the excitement flowing through the crowd was undoubtedly just as strong. Normally you could find us fast asleep at midnight on New Year's Eve, but this time we were shamed into staying up, joining the festivities, etc. Of course that meant we found a spread of food to occupy part of our time building up to midnight, but the crowd excitement was also infectious.

We continue to get questions about the proposed new Elba post office. There was a news announcement in mid-December concerning a selected location and a statement about posting the decision in the local post office and giving people 30 days to respond. As of Tuesday, January 4th, that posting hasn't taken place and postal officials say no one has told them to do anything. This prompted a phone call to the postal service man from Atlanta who has been making these decisions and promises. The answering machine promised he would return the call in a few minutes. How few we don't know, because the sun went down without the return call. To those asking how to contact the postal office in charge of this project, here it is: Vice President Facilities, Facilities Service Office, Bldg 300 - Suite 300, 4000 Dekalb Technology Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30340-2799. Attention Kerry G. Pfimner. Another promise is that of a response.

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

## Julian Bryan Taylor Veterinary Diagnostic Lab offers many services

by Joel L. Cline, DVM, MAM  
Laboratory Director Julian Bryan Taylor Diagnostic Laboratory

The Julian Bryan Taylor Veterinary Diagnostic Lab in Elba, Alabama offers many services to livestock producers in South Alabama.

The diagnostic lab is a service of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, and is available to assist farmers suffering losses in their herds or flocks. The lab is a branch of the main lab located on the Auburn University campus. Animals submitted to the laboratory are examined thoroughly and sent to determine the cause of death. The producer, their veterinarian, and the lab can then work together to formulate a treatment plan for the remaining sick animals to try and prevent the problem from occurring again.

Many diseases caused by parasites, bacteria and viruses can be quickly diagnosed. In other cases, samples are collected and sent to the diagnostic lab at Auburn University for further testing or to confirm a diagnosis that was suspected at the branch lab. A rapid diagnosis can help prevent the spread of the disease.

In addition to diagnosing diseases, other tests can often be done to help make treatment and prevention decisions. For example, in cases where antibiotics are needed for other animals on the farm, a test can be done to help decide which

antibiotic is most likely to be effective.

All animal species may be submitted to the lab. Many of the lab's services are available free of charge while others are available for a small fee. If you are planning to submit an animal to the lab, several steps can be taken to increase the chance of finding a diagnosis.

It is very important that the animal be brought to the lab as soon as after death as possible. If the animal cannot be brought to the lab immediately, the carcass should be cooled. Small animals can be placed in a cooler or refrigerator. Large animals are difficult to cool and should be brought to the lab quickly. A walk-in cooler is available behind the lab and is open at all times. Animals can be placed in this cooler after hours and on weekends and holidays. While cooling the animal is very important, it is also important that the animal not be frozen. Freezing and thawing can interfere with some test procedures.

If more than one animal dies, it is often useful to examine several of the animals.

Be prepared to give a good history of the animal including feeding, treatments, how many animals are sick, vaccination history, history of diseases previously found on the farm and any signs of sickness that were seen before the animal died.

A large number of the cases brought to the lab are chickens from

local broiler producing companies.

While most of these cases are brought in by the company's field representatives, the farmer plays an important part in helping the laboratory make a diagnosis. The company should be informed whenever daily mortality is higher than normal. It is especially important in poultry production that diseases be diagnosed early to prevent them from spreading throughout the flock. Fresh, dead birds should be saved for submission to the lab along with several sick birds. The poultry farmer should also describe all the signs of sickness or abnormal behavior that he has seen in the flock. Again, it is extremely important

that poultry diseases be diagnosed when they first appear so that preventive measures can be taken to limit mortality. All disease problems in poultry should be properly diagnosed so that policies can be developed by the company to help control diseases on a complex wide basis.

The laboratory is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and can be reached at (334) 897-6340. We offer our services to help local producers in any way possible. By rapidly identifying diseases and controlling outbreaks, our region can enjoy more profitable livestock and poultry production.

## EMS

(Continued from Page One)

time should be approximately the same, if not better, as it was with the rescue squad. He also pointed out that Coffee County EMS will be providing ALS (Advanced Life Support) service while the rescue squad was providing on BLS (Basic Life Support) service.

After a short discussion, the council voted unanimously to enter into the proposed nine-month contract with Coffee County EMS providing the county provides the \$1,000 per month supplement. The Coffee County Commission meets Monday, Jan. 10, 2000.

At the present time, EMS is providing emergency medical service to the New Brockton area as much as their present resources allow them to do so.

Turning to other matters of business, Mayor Lee commented that this month's bills were unusually high - \$148,945.64 due to having to pay off the \$100,000 note for the paving of the town's streets. He also told council members that a check in the amount of \$95,000 had been received from the state for the paving project.

Jerry Gilbert, acting police chief, reported that officers investigated twenty-six complaints, made three arrests, investigated

three traffic accidents, and issued forty traffic citations. He noted that the fire department responded to 4 fires and animal control officers picked up six stray dogs.

Councilman McMonagle requested that each councilman appoint one person from their respective district to serve on a neighborhood crime watch committee. He also informed everyone that police officers would begin issuing citations to those failing to adhere to the state's new seat belt and child restraint law.

"We're doing this for your safety and not for any other reason," he said.

McMonagle serves as liaison between the police department and town council.

Finally, Mayor Lee encourages all the citizens of New Brockton to come by city hall and fill out forms that will be helpful in qualifying the town to receive more federal monies from the state and federal governments.

Other actions taken by the council were as follows:

• Approved part-time help for the city clerk to help with the census and to get ready for the election this year. The part-time help consists of 20 hours per week until further notice.

## ELBA GENERAL HOSPITAL REPORT

Elba General Hospital had the following patients admitted during the time period of December 28, 1999, through January 3, 2000. They were: Billy Jack Boutwell, Gwendolyn Rayborn, Betty Sue James, Ernestine Legg, Annie Williams, Katelyn Hutto, R. C. Boutwell, Maquida Powell, James Crocker, Tommy Money, Annise Coleman, Melanie Hall, Ruby Cordle, Hennon Cordle, Jerry Nelson, Al English, Christopher Powell, Alan Watson, Kristy Miles, and J. L. Edgar.

Persons discharged during the same time period were: Bonnie Stewart, Wyndia Campbell, Missouri Johnson, Susan Sanders, Gwendolyn Rayborn, Betty Sue James, Sealee Napper, Annise Coleman, Katelyn Hutto, Brakin Hutto, Ruby Cordle, Hennon Cordle, R. C. Boutwell, Jerry Nelson, Kateron Owens, Christopher Dandley, Charlotte Blackmon, Ernestine Legg, Alan Watson, Harold Williams, and Stephen Nelson.

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Death Row Inmates Should Not Be Given Forum  
by Senator Bill Armistead

Well, we made it through Y2K, or so it seems, without major incident. It's not quite over yet as many expect computer problems to occur in the days and weeks ahead as businesses and governments get back to work after the holidays. I trust that everything will go smoothly and I look forward to the term, "Y2K2," becoming a term of the past.

As we enter this new century of technological advances, one can only imagine what the future holds for us. One thing is for sure: computers and the Internet will play an increasingly important role in our lives. Every day some new, creative technologies seem to appear on the scene. Unfortunately, to appear on the scene, they must be used. One example is giving death row inmates a forum on the World Wide Web, to vent all of their thoughts against society, along with their so-called poems and artwork.

A company in Canada, known as Canadian Coalition Against the Death Penalty, is hosting web sites for such a purpose. And, according to recent news reports, Alabama death row inmates are prominently featured on this site.

More than a dozen Alabama death row inmates have been given free Internet Web pages by this group, calling it freedom of speech. Well, I think those awaiting the death penalty have forfeited such rights by committing the crime that caused them to be sentenced to death. The Canadian Coalition Against the Death Penalty is also running requests on its pages for pen pals for nearly four dozen Alabama inmates.

The organization allows Alabama convicts and their counterparts in 37 other states and some foreign countries to air their gripes about the legal system, to display their poems and their sometimes bloody and graphic art in an international forum on their Internet pages. Inmates have to mail their materials to the organization in Canada since prison officials won't let them access the Internet directly.

The head of this coalition says that he is providing this outlet for inmates because he is against the death penalty. He believes that

allowing these death row inmates the ability to express their feelings will further his cause of eliminating the death penalty. I believe that this group is way off base and I will work to see that Alabama death row inmates are prohibited from posting their whining on the World Wide Web.

According to a recent news report, one Alabama death row inmate who was convicted of slaying a woman in Jefferson County in 1994, now has a presence on the Internet, thanks to the Canadian Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

This inmate and three other teenagers stabbed their victim 180 times, wounding her right chest, removed one of her lungs, cut off her fingers and thumbs, broke every bone in her face and skull and threw her over a cliff, according to news reports. Why should this murderer be allowed to post anything on the Internet for the world to view?

This inmate has posted on the Internet the following which he wants to be known as his last words: "Take life from me on this day of (which I) do not wish to live. I will see no tomorrow; All that I know turns black with my fate. I give in to pain. I yield on to fate. Look unto me, for death is my choice. I fear not the wrath. I lift up my voice; Why all the pain? This you can't tell so I say unto you now, I await you in Hell!"

He has also posted a drawing of a nude woman with her legs spread wide holding a bloody sword in her left hand and the decapitated victim's head in her right hand. Another sketch shows a skull with crossed swords behind it. How sick can you get? I can't imagine the kind of emotions this "freedom" brings to the family of the murdered victim.

Death row inmates also seek out pen pals on the Canadian Coalition Against the Death Penalty web site. Most of the notes posted by the inmates, from my observation, were blaming everyone other than themselves for their plight.

I saw none who displayed any remorse for their deeds. One

seemed to be trying to convince the world what a wonderful person he was by writing, "My personality: a little shy, honest, caring, loving, sensitive, very protective to women, children and elderly, serious minded, don't play mind games. Not racial, don't judge people based on race, size, or sex, I am open minded, I am also open to marriage, I am old fashioned and as family". Yeah, sure. Tell this to the victims' family.

Another seemingly egotistical, inmate writes, "Well, you may not know me, so let me take up a little of your precious time where-as I can give you a brief description of my personality. But first...I would like for you to assume a comfortable position, and let these words of wisdom flow through your mind and soul. As I paint this small picture on the wall of your mind and soul, let a little chocolate over your life. I want you to understand that I am 22 years of age, but believe me, my friend my mentality level is far beyond that. I've sought my excellent potential as a human being, at such a youthful age...If you would like for your life to be enhanced in a professional manner, then here is your milk and honey! Roses are red and violets are blue, if I were looking for love I'd pick me if I were you!"

I see no place in society for this type of public display of death row inmate's writings. As a member of the Alabama Senate and a member of the Alabama Prison Oversight Committee, I will do everything in my power to prevent inmates in our state from being allowed to participate in this warped scenario called "freedom of speech".

On the other hand, I whole heartedly support Prison Fellowship Ministries, where lay people go into the prisons to minister to the heart and souls of these inmates.

(Senator Bill Armistead represents Senate District 4 including Shelby, Chilton & Bibb Counties and can be contacted at the Alabama State House, Suite 378, Montgomery, AL 36130 or at 334-242-7873. Senator Armistead's e-mail address is senator@armistead.org and his web site is www.armistead.org)

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## Better laws &amp; enforcement key to reducing drunk driving

Better Laws, Enforcement Key To Reducing Drunk Driving By 39 Percent Since 1982

Although the number of licensed drivers on our nation's roadways increased by 15 percent over the past decade, the number of arrests for drunk driving dropped by almost 18 percent, according to a new report issued by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Traffic safety experts believe two of the main reasons for this drop in drunk driving arrests include improving public attitudes toward drunk driving and use of designated drivers. At the other end of the spectrum, authorities credit better laws which target hard core drinking drivers—a small percentage of people who nonetheless are responsible for nearly 80 percent of all alcohol-related traffic fatalities nationally.

As a result, today many police leaders are focusing on hard core drunk drivers. They were first identified as a target for policy efforts in 1991 in a landmark study, The Hard Core Drinking Driver, produced by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF). This study described the characteristics of hard core drinking drivers and shared perspective on methods to more effectively deal with these problem drivers. The study was sponsored by Anheuser-Busch.

Since then, legislatures in many

states have considered drunk driving legislation specifically targeted to the hard core. In fact, over the past year alone, nearly 300 bills have been introduced in legislatures to address the hard core drinking driver.

"We have no tolerance for alcohol abuse in any form, especially drunk driving," said Mark Boranayak, vice president of state affairs, Anheuser-Busch. "That's why for nearly 20 years, we have been dedicated to finding solutions to this problem. We've committed to sharing our knowledge of the most effective methods to deal with drunk driving with elected officials, policy experts and others interested in this problem."

"From our standpoint, the best drunk driving legislation targets the main offenders, provides those in the judicial community with tiered options to match the penalty to the specific offense, and utilizes proven methods—like alcohol ignition interlock devices—to ensure that repeat offenders don't continue to pose a risk to themselves and others."

For those interested in learning more about proven methods to deal with drunk drivers, Anheuser-Busch provided funding for a series of educational brochures produced by TIRF. To obtain a free copy of the brochure, call 1-800-DIAL-BUD.

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## AREA DEATHS

## CLYDE WILLIS LEE

Mr. Clyde Willis Lee, age 77, of 2716 County Rd. 206, Jack, Ala., died Dec. 29, 1999 at the Enterprise Hospital.

Funeral services were held Dec. 31, 1999 in the Chapel of Dillard Funeral Home of Troy, Ala., with Rev. Ray Stinson officiating. Burial followed in the Springhill Cemetery with Dillard Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include his wife: Marion N. Lee, Jack; one daughter: Rebecca Bergeron, Conn.; one son: Randall Lee, Jack; one grandson: Elba Bergeron, Calif.

## ZARRELL BARNES

Mr. Zarrell Barnes, born April 10, 1937, in Elba, Ala., died Dec. 23, 1999 at the Bay County Convalescent Home in Panama City, Fla.

Funeral services were held Dec. 29, 1999 at Rocky Head Baptist Church of Elba with Rev. A. R. Williams officiating. Burial followed in the Rocky Head Baptist Church Cemetery with Hammond Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Mr. Barnes was preceded in death by four brothers and sisters: Floyd Barnes, Evon Barnes, Nathaniel Barnes and Sarah Magwood.

Survivors include his mother:

**CARD OF THANKS**  
The family of Lamar Vaughan deeply appreciates the expressions of sympathy and love during the loss of our loved one. May God bless you. Frances Vaughan, Pam Baker & family, Marie Martin & family, Virginia Taft & family

1/6p.

**FAX SERVICE AVAILABLE AT THE ELBA CLIPPER**

Vernie "Julie" Barnes, six step children: William, Charles, James, Joe, Hampt and Phillis, all of Houston, Texas and Susie, Enterprise, Ala.; three brothers: Federal Barnes and Murry (Phillis) Barnes, both of Elba, Joe (Shirley) Barnes, Hinesville, Ga.; two sisters: Jeanette (Marvin) Silec, Elba, Zenear "Katie", Hempstead, N.Y.

**LELA MAE HARRIS**  
Mrs. Lela Mae Harris, born June 8, 1906, of New Brockton, Ala., died Dec. 13, 1999.

Funeral services were held Dec. 18, 1999 at Collins Chapel A.M.E. Church, Main Street, New Brockton, Ala. with Rev. Freddie Flowers officiating. Burial followed in the Hardshell Cemetery of New Brockton with Hammond Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Survivors include her husband: Tom Harris Jr., New Brockton; eight children: Lois Nance, Cincinnati, Ohio, Juanita (Albert) Finch, New Brockton, Norma Ruth Harris, New Brockton, Gussie (John) Bunch, Far Rockaway, N.Y., Doris (Ralph) Haynes, Enterprise, Ala., Barbara (James) Henderson, Elba, John Brady Harris and Roy Lee Harris, New Brockton; one brother: John R. Hatten, S.C.; three, sisters-in-law: Carrie Reynolds, New Brockton, Minnie P. Harris, Irene Nickerson, Far Rockaway, N.Y.; one brother-in-law: James Harris, New Brockton; 26 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren.

**Pre-need funeral planning now available at Hayes Funeral Home for details 897-2225**

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- Second - Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Third - Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Fourth - Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

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# CHURCH

## ROUND AND ABOUT WITH ERIA

897-2006

Scripture: Romans 10:20

\*\*\*Thinking of you, praying for you (Pray for me): The Flowers family, Hannah Coleman, Mary B. Belcher, Johnnie Yelverton, Johnnie M. Daniels, Mary Alice Blue, Pearl Tills, Maggie Head, Diann Coleman, Mozelle McCormick, W.H. Caldwell, Rev. Henry Ewing Jr., Rev. Charles Lane.

\*\*\*Birthdays: Melissa Kelley - Jan. 2, Tillman Lindsey - Jan. 14 (in Memory).

\*\*\*The adjourned session of the Mulberry Baptist District Association will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, at the Educational Building, Elba, at 10 a.m. All pastors and delegates are asked to be present. Each church is asked to enroll with \$50. All elected officers of all auxiliaries and the parent body for the Year 2000 will be installed during the January board meeting at 11 a.m.

\*\*\*An Area Wide Crusade for Christ will be held Jan. 10-15 at 7 p.m. nightly at the Country Cathedral, Hwy. 84 East, Opp, Ala.

Speakers will be Steve Pettis (Monday - Wednesday), Jesse Hobbs (Thursday & Friday), and Martin Houston (Saturday). There will be a morning service Monday - Friday at 10 a.m. with Bro. "Cal" Ramey as the speaker. Special music each night with Daryl Luster. Celebration, Nazareth Baptist Church Choir, and New Beginnings Choir. There also will be special youth services each night at 7 p.m. with guest speakers to include: Bobby Sullivan (Monday - Wednesday) and Martin Houston (Thursday - Saturday). This event is sponsored by the Area Wide Ministers. For further information, call Monroe Sasser at home at (334) 493-9205 or at church at (334) 493-4354, or call Charles Dyess at (334) 493-7413.

\*\*\*Mt. Zion First Baptist Church and Pastor W.O. Edwards welcome you to the Annual New Year's Revival, Jan. 3 - 7, 2000, at 7 p.m. nightly. The speaker for the week: Pastor L.P. Carter, Jordan Grover of Seagrath, Ala., Benevolent Grove of Needmore, Ala.



### \*\*Milton "Milt" Edward Belcher

Milton "Milt" Edward Belcher was born in Elba in 1948 to Grover and Eria Mae Lindsey Belcher. Belcher spent many years working to overcome the oppressions he was born into and move from the life of a small town country boy. His goal was to experience the advantages offered by city life. He graduated Elba High School in 1966 and attended Tuskegee Institute where he graduated in 1970 with a BS degree in political science. Belcher attended law school at the University of Kentucky before being inducted into the Army. His Army obligation ended in 1974, and he transferred to the University of Alabama, graduating from law school there in 1976.

After law school, Belcher came to Montgomery through an appointment as an assistant attorney general. He was appointed soon thereafter to the position of chief of the Civil Rights/Constitutional Litigation of Incarcerated Persons Division. Belcher continues to oversee various programs for the attorney general's office, and he currently holds an attorney IV position, making him the first and only African American to hold this position. Belcher is also an adjunct professor of law.

He is married to Betty Jean Franklin Belcher, and they have three children. An insert on Belcher's life and accomplishments can be found in Richard Bailey's book, "They Too Call Alabama Home - African American Profiles 1880-1994". In the above photo, Belcher (standing to the far right) poses with Attorney General Bill Pryor and his colleagues on the Senior Leadership Staff in December, 1999.

There will be a Women's Conference sponsored by Coffee Baptist Association, at First Baptist Church, Enterprise. The special guest speaker will be Mrs. Esther Burroughs Ministries, Treasurers of the Heart, a speaker and writing ministry. Prior to this she

served as director, Field Staff, in the Church Growth and Association, Evangelism Department of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta. Registration fee is \$25.00 per person. Fee must accompany registration. For registration, call 894-6411. This conference is open to all women in our area, but registration is on a first come basis.

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A ministry of First Baptist Church

## PASTOR'S CORNER

Rev. John Baxter, Pastor of  
ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Elba, AL

## Count your blessings

Kent Crockett in THE 911 HANDBOOK tells about a woman named Carol who decided she wanted to do something nice for her neighbor, Mrs. Smith, so she baked a pie and carried it next door. When Mrs. Smith opened her door, she was surprised to see Carol holding the pie. She replied, "For me? Oh, thank you so much! You just don't know how much I appreciate it! You are so thoughtful for doing this! Thank you!"

Because Mrs. Smith liked the pie so much, Carol decided the next week to bake her another one. When she took it over, Mrs. Smith opened the door and said, "Thank you so much. You are so kind!"

When she took another pie over the following week, Mrs. Smith simply replied, "Thanks."

Carol took another pie over the next week and Mrs. Smith responded, "You are a day late with that pie!"

The following week she baked her another pie. This time her neighbor said, "Try using a little more sugar and don't bake it quite as long. The crust has been a little bit hard lately. And I'd like cherry instead of apple filling next time."

The next week Carol was so busy, she was unable to cook for her neighbor. When Carol passed by her house on the way to the store, Mrs. Smith looked through the window and noticed she wasn't carrying a pie. She then stuck her head out the window and yelled, "Where's my pie?"

"It's so easy to get used to our blessings," says Crockett. "After enjoying them for a while, we begin to think we deserve them. Then instead of being thankful, we start complaining. It's a process that occurs so slowly, we don't even realize it's happening. Our attitude has changed from being grateful to ungrateful."

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur D. Smith will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, January 16, from two until four o'clock.

They have two sons, Dean and Dennis; four grandchildren, Dina Matthews, Dusty, Deann and Allison Smith; and one great-grandchild, Morgan Matthews.

The Smiths are active members in their church and community. Arthur D. is famous for his Bar B Que's and Audrey has made many beautiful quilts and porcelain dolls. She also paints. Several paintings are on display in her home.

Arthur D. is the eighth of nine children of the late Watson and Fannie Lou Smith and served his country as Sergeant 1st Class in the U.S. Army during WWII. He retired from Dorsey Trailers in

1992 after 42 years and 5 months of employment. He spends his spare time on his farm and helping his sons. Audrey is the fifth of eight children of the late Lester and Addie Bell Wicker. She retired from Alates Inc. in 1989 after 29 years of employment and enjoys her leisure time with church activities, cooking for her family, gardening and many other hobbies as already mentioned.

Invitations to this celebration were not issued locally, but all family and friends of this couple and their extended families invite you to attend.

This anticipated event will take place at the home of Dean and Pam Smith, 1751 North Smith Avenue (the old homeplace of the Smith family).



Audrey and Arthur D. Smith

## Arthur D. and Audrey Smith celebrate 50 years of marriage

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## SAR to meet January 8th

Members of the Wiregrass Chapter, Alabama Society, Sons of the American Revolution will meet at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 8, in Dothan with Tri State Chapter members to install officers for the year 2000.

State Society President Hoyt O. Smith will be the installing officer during the event to be held in the Wiregrass Rehabilitation Center on the northeast quadrant of the Dothan traffic circle.

Both chapters reelected officers who served during 1999 to the same positions for the coming year.

Wiregrass Chapter officers include: Richard A. Kemp II, president; John Ray Fuller, vice president; John R. Wallace, secretary;

treasurer; with Kemp named the registrar.

The Tri State Chapter officers are: Harry W. Dunaway, president; John A. Shiver, vice president; George J. Deane, secretary; Carlos E. Lee, treasurer; and Robert K. Dunaway, chaplain.

The Wiregrass Chapter holds regular meetings at Noon on the third Thursday of the month at Po Folks Restaurant in Enterprise and the Tri State Chapter meets at 10:30 a.m. in the Dothan-Houston County Public Library in Dothan.

Area residents who are descended from a Revolutionary War patriot are invited to attend meetings to obtain more information.



THE SINGING ECHOES, of Cleveland, Tenn., will be in concert at Country Cathedral this Thursday, Jan. 6. The church is located on U.S. Hwy. 84 E., Opp. The concert will start at 7 p.m. with no admission charge. Everyone is cordially invited.

## John M. Harbert III Award presented to David Boutwell

Birmingham, AL, December 28, 1999

David A. Boutwell, son of Totsy Lee Boutwell and the late Max F. Boutwell of Elba and Harbert Management Corporation's Vice President of Finance and Controller, was presented the 1999 John M. Harbert III Award at the Birmingham firm's annual holiday luncheon. The award is given each year to the employee who best exemplifies the company founder's ideals of cooperation, perseverance and dedication. Nominations for the recognition are submitted by Harbert employees.

In making the announcement, Raymond J. Harbert, president and CEO of Harbert Management Corporation, noted that Boutwell "does whatever is asked of him to further the success of the company."

In addition to overseeing the daily accounting operations of the firm's operating entities, Boutwell heads the due diligence team for most potential acquisitions by Harbert's investment funds.

Boutwell joined Harbert in 1991 as Director of Financial Projects after 14 years with Ernst & Young. He holds both the CPA and CMA certifications and is a graduate of the University of Alabama.

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## Hattie Bell Carpenter to celebrate 90th birthday

The children and grandchildren of Hattie Bell Carpenter request the pleasure of your company at a reception on the occasion of her 90th Birthday. Saturday, Jan. 15, 2000, at 5:30 p.m. at the Elba High School Cafeteria. The dress is semi-formal attire.



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**IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN**

**ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Sam Totten, Pastor  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Even. Service: 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

**BASIN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Sam Totten, Pastor  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Even. Service: 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

**BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Darryl Caldwell, Pastor  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Wed. Bible Class: 6:30 p.m.

**BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Elbert Smith, Pastor  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Even. Service: 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Prayer Service: 6:30 p.m.

**BROOKLYN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Robert Davis, Pastor  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Even. Service: 6:00 p.m.

**CHESTNUT GROVE METHODIST CHURCH**  
Rev. Bennett Abbott, Pastor  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
2nd & 4th Sundays: 9:30 a.m.  
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays: 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School: 11:00 a.m.  
Wed. & 4th Sundays: 11:00 a.m.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST**  
E.H. Hill, Minister  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Even. Service: 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

**DAMASCUS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Rev. William Frank, Pastor  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Even. Service: 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

**DORCAS BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Donnie Marler, Pastor  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Even. Service: 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Prayer Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

**FAITH CHURCH COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Denny Sherrer, Pastor  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Even. Service: 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.

**FANON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Bernard Strickland, Pastor  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Even. Service: 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Service: 6:15 p.m.

**ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Randy Neal, Minister  
Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.  
Morn. Worship: 10:00 a.m.  
Even. Service: 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

**ELBA CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY**  
J.F. Wesley, Pastor  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday Afternoon: 5:30 p.m.  
Wed. Service: 7:00 p.m.

**ELBA DELIVERANCE TABERNACLE**  
Allen Richards, Pastor  
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.  
Morn. Worship: 11:00 a.m.  
Even. Service: 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Service: 7:00 p.m.

**ELBA FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
Homer F. Moore, Pastor  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Morn. Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Even. Service: 6:00 p.m.  
Wed. Service: 7:00 p.m.

**ELBA FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**



# SCHOOLS

## Enrichment Classes Write Letters To Tiger Tales Editor

Mrs. Hagan's Enrichment Class' Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

My favorite part about the school is the people. There are many kids in the school. Seven of them are my best friends. They are Katrina, Kimberly, Kristy, Michelle, Amanda, Erin, and Kesi. My favorite teacher is Mrs. Lynn Weeks. She is very giving and considerate. She gives us extra study time. She also lets us watch movies. These are my favorite things at Elba High School. Sincerely, Samuel

Dear Editor:

I'd like to tell you something I like about EHS. I like PE, but I like pep rallies more. I also like walking down the halls just talking to my friends. I like EHS because I am not in EES. Well, that's mostly all I have to say. Sincerely, Shantel

Dear Editor:

I'd like to tell you something I like about EHS. I like PE, but I like pep rallies more. I also like walking down the halls just talking to my friends. I like EHS because I am not in EES. Well, that's mostly all I have to say. Sincerely, Shantel

Dear Editor:

I like PE and break and I also like the short order line because there are not many people in that line. I like coming to school to see all my friends. I like Mrs. Hagan's class because I like being enriched. Sincerely, Ted

Dear Editor:

The thing I like about Elba High School is going to PE. It is a good way to start off the day. Another thing I like about EHS is pep rallies cause we get to get out of class early. Last, but not least, the thing I like is the good tasting food on the short order line. Sincerely Yours, Carlos

Dear Editor:

The best part of school to me is break, PE, and history. That is the part of school that I like. Some people might like everything about school. Sincerely, Zane

Dear Miss Ward:

I would like to inform the public about Elba High School's faculty. Our teachers are very nice and caring. They are helpful with your problems and questions. They love to help you. Our principal, Danny Weeks, is also very caring and helpful. He has the qualities of a teacher, but teaches with jokes. The assistant principal Johnny Dunn is my favorite member of the faculty because he is the nicest and most caring. Sincerely, Brandon

Dear Editor:

My name is Allison. I think Elba High School is good because the school building and grounds are clean, the lunches are excellent, and the students and faculty are nice and friendly. We are fortunate to have a new school with modern classrooms. I have visited several schools with my daddy and we have the best around. I feel lucky to be a part of Elba City School system. Sincerely, Allison

Dear Kimberly:

I would like to take a minute out of your time and tell you something about Elba High School. First I would like to say that I love band



MRS. HAGAN'S ENRICHMENT CLASS



MRS. GRIGGS' 7TH GRADE ENRICHMENT CLASS

and you are a great drum major. I love how the teachers laugh with us when we do something funny. They are really sweet and nice. Some of the teachers can have an ill day, but they do not take it out on us. I love the lunchroom food. They are great cooks; my mom is one of them. Those are the things I like about high school. Sincerely, Selena

Dear Cammie:

Hi my name is Amanda and I am a 7th grader. What I like about Elba High School is that we don't have to stay in the same class or have the same teachers the entire year. Two semesters with eight teachers, four per semester is so cool. All your subjects are taught in two semesters.

The other thing I like about Elba High School is that we have two lunch lines and everybody doesn't have to eat the same thing. We can have drinks, tea, water and ice at lunch. We can get other stuff out of the vending machines. I mean, not everyone likes to eat or drink the same thing. I don't much like milk. That is what I like about EHS. Sincerely, Amanda

Dear Editor:

I like EHS because we have fun. In Mrs. Hagan's room we work and then we have free time, but only about 15 minutes. On Fridays we have a pep rally and then we go home and get ready for the game. But everywhere you go the school colors are shining black, white, and gold. That is my favorite thing about EHS. Sincerely, Quran

Mrs. Griggs' 7th Grade Enrichment Class Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I have the privilege of being a part of a great organization. I would like to tell you a little about it. We are a group of kids who share a common bond that few others can claim. We work hard and have fun. We strive for excellence. Our goal is perfection. We will not settle for second best.

The organization that I am describing is the Elba High School Band. We competed this year in three marching contests and finished first.

ished with a perfect season of superior ratings. Concert season lies ahead, and our strive for excellence will continue. The knowledge I have gained and the memories of my years in the band will be with me always. I'm proud to be a member of the EHS Tiger Band, and I look forward to more years to come. Sincerely, Justin

Dear Editor:

My first year at Elba High School has been great. I get to choose my own food, drink cokes, attend pep rallies, and I feel more responsible. It's everyone's responsibility to get their books for class, and if you forget them, too bad! The pep rallies are great. It gets everyone excited for the football games. As for the food, I can actually eat without being disgusted. This is a great school. I thank everybody for helping it be this way. Sincerely, Rebekah

Dear Kim:

What I like about Elba High School is that they have snack machines for us at snack. I prefer the food choices at lunch. I admire all the nice people. I like the block system. I love the pep rallies. I like the way we can be in clubs. I like the co-op program. Most of all I love the way they can help you find a college. Sincerely, Alison

Dear Kimberly:

I think your school is the best. We have the best teachers. We have the best principal. I've been to a lot of schools and these things will always make Elba High School the best one around. The teachers try to bring out the best in us and they will help any one at any time. The principal will take time out with you about any troubles you are having in school, at home, or anywhere. Sincerely, Neal

Dear Kimberly:

Elba High School is a good school that has lots of activities. Some of these activities are pep rallies, homecoming dance, homecoming coronation, parade, and district contest for the band. What more could students ask for? These are good things about Elba High School. Sincerely, Marissa, 7th grade clarinet

Dear Editor:

What I like about Elba High

School is the freedom they give you. I also like going to snack, and when we go to the library to do work. I like going to lunch, it is my favorite. What I like most about EHS is PE and I also like playing computer and doing work that is fun to do. Sincerely, Shane

Dear Editor:

The good thing about Elba High School is that the teachers and the students are very helpful in lending a hand when you need it. Another thing I like is block schedule. This is my first year in high school and I am proud that I am an Elba High School student. Sincerely, Cornelius

Dear Editor:

The thing I like most about Elba High School is the teachers. I have enjoyed my teachers and my friends. I also like the block schedule. It is not such a hassle with just four classes each day. At Elba High School we have a lot of fun sports which include basketball, football, baseball, softball, volleyball, and also golf. Elba High School is the best school ever! Sincerely, Haley

Dear Cammie:

What I like most about Elba High School is having more choices and more freedoms. You can take different teachers. You have a choice of short or regular lunch. I enjoy being with my friends and having the freedom to walk around at break. I love being able to play football on the junior high team. The school has a lot of pride and spirit. I'm proud to be an Elba Tiger like my parents were when they were in school. Sincerely, Bradley

Dear Kimberly:

I love Elba High School. It's a great place. I like my teachers and principals. Mr. Weeks and Mrs. Weeks will let us speak with them if we have a problem. High school is better than elementary school because you get plastic lunch cards and can get snacks from a snack machine. Sincerely, Phillip

Dear Cammie:

What I like about Elba High School is that we aren't slaves. We get to go to the lunchroom without the teacher. Sincerely, Lance

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### ESJC News

An interesting new music course will be offered again this Spring Semester at Enterprise State Junior College. Computer Applications in Music introduces computer skills in music, MIDI, and the application of notation and sequencing software programs. This exciting and innovative course takes students to the edge of the music industry. For more information about the course, call Dr. Richard Snyder at 334-393-ESJC, ext. 319 or on after Jan. 3, Spring Semester will begin Jan. 7. Registration will continue after the New Year holidays, Jan. 3-6. For more information about how to be admitted to the College or how to register for classes, call 334-393-ESJC, ext. 234 at the main campus or 334-598-3438 at the Ft. Rucker campus on or after Jan. 3. Or go to [www.esjc.cc.al.us](http://www.esjc.cc.al.us) to visit our website on the internet.

Enterprise State Junior College's popular special interest course, Using the Microcomputer - Level II, is offered this spring semester. This course, the first of three sessions offered this spring semester, is designed for those who have experience with keyboarding. Participants will learn the concepts of computer hardware components and database management and spreadsheets using Microsoft Works software. Successful completion of Using A Microcomputer - Level I is recommended but not required. A 3 1/2" diskette is required for the first class. There is a \$30 fee for this course, and the registration deadline is Jan. 31. Class meets Mondays and Tuesdays, Feb. 7-15, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Space is limited to the first 15 to register. For more information call 393-ESJC, ext. 234.

**FAX Service at The Elba Clipper**



### Tiger Tales

Editors:  
Kimberly Ward  
Cammie Kelley

### Tiger Band News

EHS Band Holds Annual Christmas Concert

by Emilee Qualls

On Tuesday, Dec. 14, the Elba High School Concert Bands held their annual Christmas Concert.

The concert was held in the Elba High School Auditorium beginning at 7 p.m. It began with the Christmas tunes coming from the 5th and 6th grade bands.

After the elementary bands were finished, the EHS Jazz Band played two songs titled "Windy" and "Mellow Yellow."

After the Jazz Band, Drum Major Kimberly Ward and Band Captain Kelvin Burks presented Mr. Ellis and Mr. Maddox with gift certificates to On Cue from the EHS Concert Band.

A drawing for Christmas Ornament of the town from 1988-1999 was held. Drum Major Kimberly Ward drew the name and ironically her name was drawn.

The concert ended with the EHS Fight Song conducted by Kimberly Ward and Ashley Harrelson.

### Co-Op Spotlight

by Natasha Bannin

This week's Co-Op Spotlight is Jessica Welch. Jessica is the 17-year-old daughter of Nathan and Debbie Simmons.

Jessica is employed at Weeks Tire. She helps with bookkeeping, working with computers, and watching Brooke and Bradley. Jessica is also involved in VICA and Sr. Beta.



### SUPPORT ELBA TIGER BASKETBALL

### Elba Elementary School Menu January 10 - 14, 2000

#### BREAKFAST

**Monday** - Cinnamon Toast or Cereal, Applesauce, Juice, Milk  
**Tuesday** - Pancakes w/ Syrup or Cereal, Juice, Milk  
**Wednesday** - Bacon & Biscuit or Cereal, Jelly, Juice, Milk  
**Thursday** - Cheese Sandwich or Cereal, Half Orange, Juice, Milk  
**Friday** - Cheese Grits or Cereal, Toast w/ Jelly, Juice, Milk

#### LUNCH

**Monday** - Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce, Green Salad w/ Crackers, Buttered Carrots, Mixed Fruit, Milk  
**Tuesday** - Cheeseburger, French Fries, Lettuce, Tomato, Dill, Cuke, Milk  
**Wednesday** - Chicken Fried Beef Patty, Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy, Fried Peas, Peach Slices, Milk  
**Thursday** - Taco Salad, Corn on Cob, Half Apple, Milk  
**Friday** - Pizza, Broccoli w/ Cheese, Whole Kernel Corn, Apple Crisp, Milk

### SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SCHOOLS

### NOTICE

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DONNIE MORROW  
CITY CLERK



## SPORTS

Views from...

## THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Another Christmas has come and gone, and for once we actually got everything put together and working in just a matter of days. This year the biggest battle came from a Nintendo video system, which whopped Mom. Dad, Uncle Ron and a friend before we finally decided to call up the 800 number and get some help. The lady on the other end of the phone walked Mom through each step slowly, but surely, and in only a matter of minutes the game that had threatened to whip us all was working like a charm. Hey, I guess those numbers really do work!

## DUSTING OFF THE SPORTS DESK

\*\*\* The Elba Tigers won last week's Red Level Holiday Basketball Tournament, and claimed big wins over T.R. Miller, Florala and Red Level in the process. The Tigers were under the direction of coaches Frank Phillips and Jamie Corbitt in the tourney, and the coaching by committee obviously worked as the Tigers won three games and took home their second tournament championship of the season. Elba unveiled a new high-paced offense in the tournament and ran the ball up and down the court on every opportunity, but did struggle on the defense and as the Tigers seemed confused at times, especially when in a zone defense. The wins should help the Tigers get over the sudden loss of their coach, and I am sure the overall play of the team will improve as they get used to the new coaching style of the coaches. Elba's Wayne Reed was named the MVP in the tournament, and I agree with the selection of the Tiger senior. Reed was a valuable player for the Tigers on both offense and defense, and nailed some very big three-pointers in the championship win over Red Level. He also rebounded hard and was the team's leader on the court. If Reed had not been selected, the trophy would have gone to the Tigers' Tim Ware. The big 6-6 Ware scored over 20 points in all three games, hustled every minute he was on the court and was the crowd favorite with his high-flying dunks. Ware is a force on the basketball court, and he and Reed were a dynamic 1-2 punch for Elba in last week's tournament.

\*\*\* The New Brockton Gamecocks were over in Dothan last week at the annual Dothan Progress/Dothan Eagle Prep Classic, and made their mark as they defeated previously unbeaten Geneva County in the opening round, before being ousted by three-time defending champ Randolph-Clay. The Gamecocks did their usual great job of keeping the score close and then winning late in the win over Geneva County, and won by pounding the ball inside against the bigger Bulldogs and getting their top scorers in foul trouble. Coach Keith Thrasher was absent for the Gamecocks' second game due to the death of his father in Indiana, but New Brockton still played hard and as a team in keeping the score close for three quarters against the heavily-favored Devils, from Georgia. New Brockton missed countless free-throws in the loss, and no doubt missed the coaching skills of Coach Thrasher, even though assistant William Moguel did a creditable job at the helm. The Gamecocks may have gone 1-1 in the tournament, but they once again proved that they can play with any team, any where, and will be a major factor as the season progresses.

\*\*\* I believe that the folks over in Dothan are really missing the boat by not hosting a girls' tournament the week before the boys' event. I made the suggestion years ago and was told that when the caliber of play improved among the girls teams a separate tourney might be started. Okay, the caliber of play may not be great, but maybe by putting the girls on the big court in the Civic Center, in front of big crowds, the tournament officials could actually play a big role in giving the girls program a shot in the arm. You can say what you want, but the caliber of many of the teams in this year's boys tournament wasn't exactly outstanding. C'mon, give the girls a chance!

\*\*\* In closing...I urge all the local basketball fans to make plans to come out at least once to see the youth league in action at the Elba Recreation Center. The league includes action for both girls and boys ages 6-12. All games are played on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. These youngsters will be the players of tomorrow, and they will appreciate your encouragement!

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Surprises previously unbeaten Geneva County  
New Brockton grabs one win in Dothan tourney

The New Brockton Gamecocks competed in the 17th annual Dothan Progress/Dothan Eagle Prep Classic last week, at the Dothan Civic Center, and pulled off one upset before being ousted in the second round by the three-time defending tournament champions. The Gamecocks opened the six-team event by upsetting the previously undefeated Geneva County Bulldogs 53-46, but then were eliminated in the second round as they were defeated by the Randolph-Clay Red Devils 64-44.

Following are tournament highlights of both games:

**NEW BROCKTON 53  
GENEVA COUNTY 46**  
The New Brockton Gamecocks and Geneva County Bulldogs tangled in the opening round of the tournament on Monday afternoon, with the Gamecocks coming away with an exciting 53-46 win, in a battle of two of the state's "Top 10" Class 2A powers.

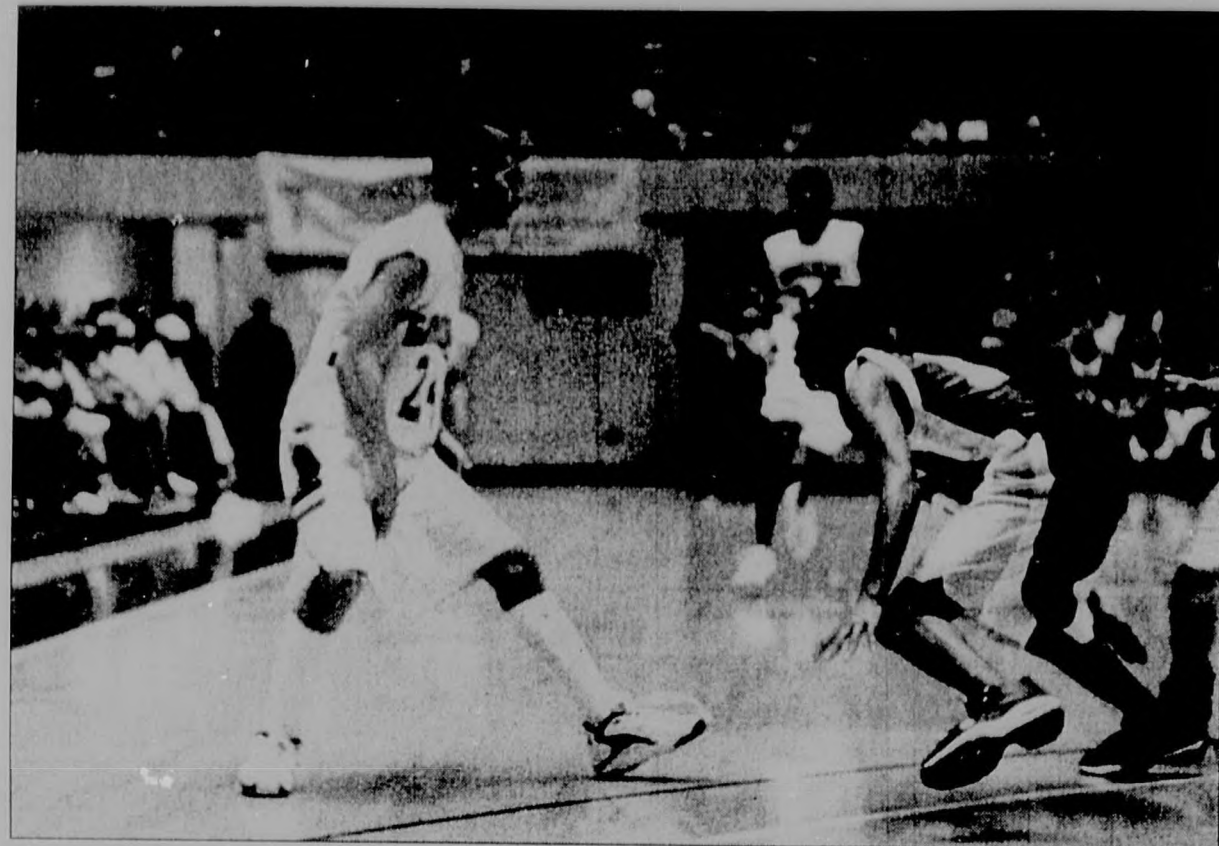
Geneva County took command at the opening tip and raced out to a 16-5 lead late in the first quarter, only to see New Brockton settle down early in the second stanza and chop the Bulldog lead to 16-14.

The Gamecocks trailed 26-22 at the half and 28-22 early in the third quarter, but pulled within 28-25 with 6:12 left in the third quarter on a three-pointer by Josh Lewis, and caught the Bulldogs at 33-33 with 2:54 left in the stanza when Jason McKenzie drove in for an easy bucket.

Kellen Cole gave New Brockton its first lead of the game at 35-33 on a short jumper with 2:23 remaining, and the two 2A powers swapped baskets for the rest of the quarter, as the teams entered the final stanza deadlocked at 37-37.

Geneva County pulled out to a 43-39 lead with 5:50 left in the fourth quarter and appeared to be back in charge, but saw the Gamecocks pull within 43-41 on a Kellen Cole basket, and then watched as New Brockton pulled even at 44-44 on a three-pointer by Cole with 3:59 remaining on the clock.

The Bulldogs regained the lead at 46-45 with 3:13 remaining after New Brockton misfired on 3 of 4 free-throw opportunities, but the Gamecocks' Kellen Cole hit four straight free-throws over an 11-second deficit to tie 46-46 with 2:57 left in the quarter, and after Andre Flow-



New Brockton's Josh Lewis (in white) prepares to drive past a Geneva County defender in last week's Gamecock win in the Dothan Progress/Dothan Eagle Prep Holiday Classic. The Gamecocks claimed one win and one loss in the annual high school tournament.

ers hit two free-throws and then converted on a driving layup, New Brockton had its fans thinking upset as the Gamecocks were within 23-27 with 5:36 remaining in the quarter.

The Gamecocks kept the score close and trailed only 40-33 with 3:16 left after a pair of free-throws by Pate Harrison, but watched as the Gamecocks missed all five of their free-throw opportunities, as the Red Devils moved on top 18-8.

A Kellen Cole jumper pulled the Gamecocks within 18-10 early in the second quarter, but the Gamecocks continued to struggle from the free-throw line, and hit only 1 of 9 free-throw chances over the first four minutes of the quarter, as Randolph-Clay opened up a 27-11 advantage.

New Brockton trailed 30-14 with 3:36 left in the half after the Devils connected on their fifth three-pointer of the half, but Randolph-Clay saw three of its starters go to the sidelines late in the half after picking up their third foul, and the Gamecocks staged a late rally behind the play of Jason McKenzie and Kellen Cole, and hit on 5 of their final 8 free-throws to pull within 31-21 by the end of the half.

A driving jumper by Josh Lewis cut the deficit to 31-23 early in the third quarter, and after Andre Flow-

## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL SCHEDULES

## THURSDAY, JAN. 6

SCAC Tournament Finals, in Ariton

## FRIDAY, JAN. 7

Clayton at Elba (JVB-VG-VB) 5:00  
Zion Chapel at Florala (JVB-VG-VB) 4:30

## SATURDAY, JAN. 8

New Brockton at Enterprise (JVB-VB) 5:30

## MONDAY, JAN. 10

Elba at Opp (JVB-VB) 6:00

## TUESDAY, JAN. 11

Kinston at New Brockton (JVB-VG-VB) 4:30  
Zion Chapel at Straughn (JVB-VG-VB) 4:30

VB - Varsity Boys, VG - Varsity Girls  
JVB - Junior Varsity Boys

\*\*\* YOUTH BASKETBALL \*\*\*  
SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY, JAN. 6

5:30 - Liberty vs. Miracle  
6:30 - Mystics vs. Rockers

## SATURDAY, JAN. 8

9:00 - Cavs vs. Lakers  
10:00 - Rockets vs. Nets  
11:00 - Shock vs. Sparks

12:00 - Clippers vs. Magic

MONDAY, JAN. 10

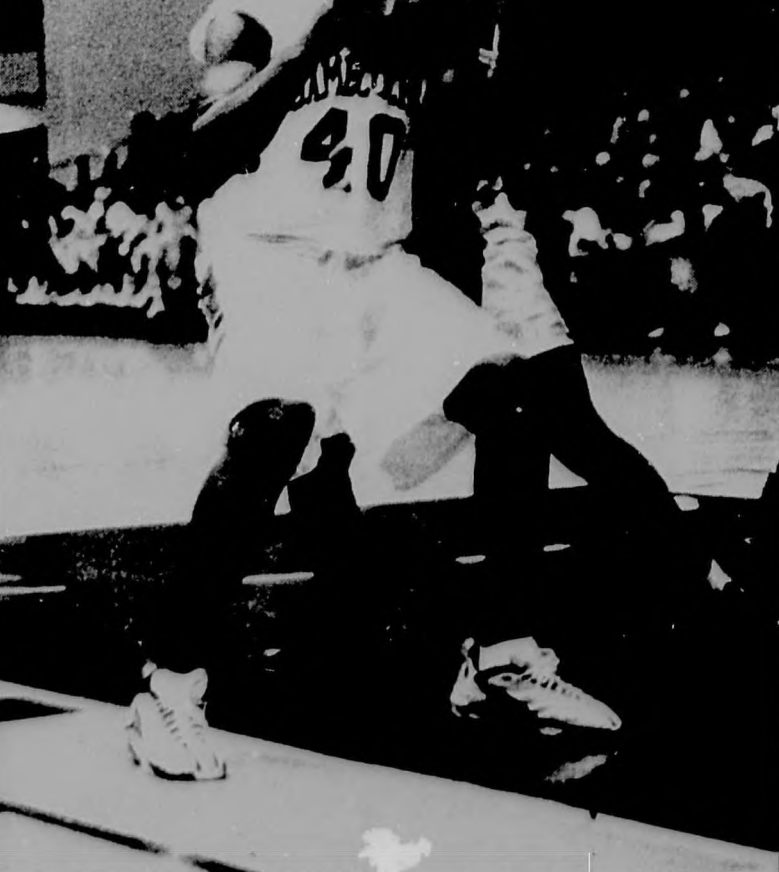
5:30 - Cavs vs. Rockers  
6:30 - Lakers vs. Nets

TUESDAY, JAN. 11

5:30 & 6:30 - Elba vs. Opp

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New Brockton's Adrian Grimes (40) fights for position against a Geneva County defender. Grimes overcame a foot injury in the opening round win over the Bulldogs to score 10 points and grab 9 rebounds in a second round game against Randolph-Clay. The Gamecocks own an 11-3 record.

**SUPPORT HIGH SCHOOL  
BASKETBALL....  
REMEMBER, EMPTY SEATS  
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## SPORTS

Tigers post three wins to grab title  
in Red Level Holiday Tournament

Elba's Monroe Williams (in white) drives for the basket in the Tigers' tournament win over T.R. Miller. Williams was named to the "All-Tournament" team for his play in Elba's three tournament wins.

## Tigers rally to flatten Florala 60-53

The Elba Tigers spotted the Florala Wildcats an early 12-point lead and then came roaring back last Tuesday night to post a wild 60-53, overtime win, in the semifinals of the Red Level Holiday Basketball Tournament.

The win upped the Tigers' record to 8-2, while Florala saw its slate dip to 5-8 with the loss.

Florala, a victim of the Tigers earlier in the season, came out ready to play and stunned the Tigers by jumping out to a 9-0 lead with 3:53 left in the opening stanza. An inside jumper by Tim Ware got Elba on the scoreboard and cut the deficit to 9-2, but it made little difference as the Wildcats remained in charge throughout the quarter and went into the second stanza with a big 17-5 lead.

Wayne Reed and Tim Ware scored baskets for the Tigers in the opening minute of the second quarter as the Tigers closed to within 17-9. However, Florala moved back to top 20-9 on a long three-pointer by Clay Pittman, and it looked like the Wildcats were determined to stay on top of the highly-ranked Tigers.

A jumper by Tim Ware and a three-point play by Aaron Coleman helped the Tigers pull within 20-16 with 4:02 left in the half, but Florala quickly regained command and went on a 7-3 run to grab a 27-19 advantage with 1:48 left on the clock.

Monroe Williams drove inside for a basket with 1:55 remaining in the half, but it was the final basket of the period for either team, and at intermission it was the Wildcats that left the floor with a 27-21 advantage.

Florala extended its lead to 32-23 early in the third quarter and appeared to be back in charge, only to see the Tigers rally behind the

The Elba Tigers competed in the second annual Red Level Holiday Basketball Tournament last weekend, at Red Level High School, and claimed three exciting wins to bring home the tournament championship.

Red Level placed second in the eight-team event, followed in order by Florala and W.S. Neal. Also taking part in the tournament were T.R. Miller, Opp, Georgiana and Flomaton.

The Tigers, led by tournament "Most Valuable Player" Wayne Reed, opened the event with an impressive 70-55 win over T.R. Miller, then eased past Florala 60-53, in overtime, in the semifinal round. Elba captured the championship by defeating Red Level 65-60, in the tourney finals.

Reed, a 6-4, senior, scored a total of 61 points in the three wins, and four three-pointers in the Tigers' narrow win over Red Level, in the finals.

Also named to the "All-Tournament" team for the Tigers were Tim Ware and Monroe Williams. Ware, a

## Elba opens tourney with 70-55 win over T.R. Miller

The Elba Tigers opened the Red Level Holiday Basketball Tournament last Monday afternoon by claiming an impressive 70-55 win over the T.R. Miller Tigers.

The win improved Elba's record to 7-2, while T.R. Miller slipped to 1-6 with the loss.

The two teams swapped baskets for much of the opening stanza, with Elba taking its only lead of the quarter at 10-9 with 1:04 left on the clock on a pair of free-throws by Tim Ware. A free-throw late in the stanza by Wayne Reed pulled the Tigers even at 11-11; however, T.R. Miller added a last-second bucket and then scored the first two points of the second quarter to go on top 15-11 with 7:38 remaining in the half.

A long three-pointer by Wayne Reed sparked an 8-0 Tiger rally that moved Elba back in front 19-15 with 4:49 left in the quarter, and while T.R. Miller closed to within one point at 20-19 midway through

the stanza, the Tigers remained in charge and went in at the half with a 24-21 advantage.

Tim Ware and Monroe Williams scored from in close to open the third quarter as the Tigers increased their lead to 28-21, and the Tigers' lead remained at seven points until late in the quarter, when a T.R. Miller rally cut Elba's advantage to 34-31 with 1:22 remaining.

Wayne Reed converted a three-point play to stop the Miller rally, and then added a pair of free-throws with :57 left in the stanza as Elba's lead went to 39-33 with one quarter of action still left to play.

Dunks by Tim Ware and Wayne Reed, followed by a Reed lay-up, pushed the Tigers' lead to 45-33 with 6:53 left in the fourth quarter, but T.R. Miller refused to let the fast-paced Tigers run away with the win, and rallied once again to cut the Elba advantage to 49-42 with 5:09 still left in the game.

Elba regrouped following a time-

out, and responded by hitting four free-throws and three breakaway lay-ups, to score ten straight points to open up a 59-42 lead with 3:55 left on the clock.

The Tigers' lead ballooned to 63-44 with 3:07 left on a dunk by Tim Ware, and the Elba reserves came in and mopped up the big 70-55 win.

Wayne Reed scored 27 points to lead Elba, while Tim Ware added 20 and Monroe Williams scored 13. Logan Lucas scored 18 points to

lead T.R. Miller.

**ELBA (70):** Hill 3, Lawford 2, Reed 27, Salter 2, Manning 2, Williams 13, Ware 20.

**T.R. MILLER (55):** Barton 7, Cheatam 2, Galloway 2, Drakelord 3, Byrne 8, Salter 8, Davis 2, Johnson 2, Folsom 2, Lucas 18, Albritton 2.

**ELBA 11 13 15 31 - 70  
TRM 13 8 12 22 - 55**

**ELBA (70):** Hill 3, Lawford 2, Reed 27, Salter 2, Manning 2, Williams 13, Ware 20.

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Elba Tigers...show off championship trophy after winning last week's second annual Red Level Holiday Basketball Tournament. The Tigers won three games in the tournament to improve their record on the season to 9-2.

6-6, senior, poured in a total of 65 points in the Tigers' trip to the tourney title, and was a crowd favorite as he recorded a total of six dunks in the three wins. Williams, a 6-4, senior, scored 29 points in Elba's

three tournament victories and was a dominant force inside.

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TRM 13 8 12 22 - 55**

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DRIVERS... \$1,000 sign-on. Top \$\$\$, OTR / regional singles, teams & O's. vans, flatbeds or spec. 1-800-441-1394. Class A CDL & 1 year trucking exp. Roadrunner Trucking 1-800-945-BIRD (2473).

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THE COFFEE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT is accepting applications for the position of Parts Runner. Qualifications include a valid driver's license. Fringe benefits include paid vacation, Sick Leave, Health Insurance, Holidays, and State Retirement. Salary begins at \$6.41 per hour. Applications can be obtained at the Alabama Employment Agency. Closing date: January 21, 2000. 1-6-3p

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## LIFESTYLES



**DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER**, the Elba School System honored its retired teachers and support staff with a reception. Both the elementary and high schools held a reception for their respective group of teachers and support personnel. While visiting the schools, the former teachers and staff had a chance to reminisce about their days at the schools and visit with those who continued their work in educating Elba's children. Shown above are some of the retired teachers and support staff of Elba High School who rounded the hall once again on that special day in November. Pictured left to right are: Sylvia Brown, Lynda Berry, Charles Pearce - Elba City Schools Superintendent, Barbara Jones, Lamar Foley, Elmer Taylor, Cecil Parker and Lamar Wilson.

## NOTICE

People With Names Starting with the Letters A & D  
Tag Renewals are Due this month  
**JANUARY 2000.**  
Renew at  
C.C. Probate Office  
at Courthouse

Coffee County Schools  
Menu  
January 10 - 14, 2000

## BREAKFAST

**Monday** - Fruit Pastry, Cereal, Juice, Milk  
**Tuesday** - Scrambled Eggs, Toast & Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk  
**Wednesday** - Breakfast Pizza, Cereal, Juice, Milk  
**Thursday** - Chicken & Biscuit, Jelly, Cereal, Juice, Milk  
**Friday** - Sausage Link, French Toast, Syrup, Cereal, Juice, Milk

## LUNCH

**Monday** - Pepperoni Pizza, Tuna Salad, Corn on Cob, English Peas, Crackers, Fruit, Milk  
**Tuesday** - Cornedog, Fish Nuggets, French Fries, Marinated Veggies, Fruit, Hushpuppies, Milk  
**Wednesday** - Burrito, Baked Ham, Black-eyed Peas, Fried Okra, Baked Cornbread, Fruit, Milk  
**Thursday** - Steak Nuggets, Grilled Chicken, Creamed Potatoes, Green Beans, Fruit Cocktail, Rolls, Milk  
**Friday** - Meat Loaf, Diced Chicken Italiano, Steamed Italian Veggies, Corn Nuggets, Rolls, Crackers, Fruit, Milk

## LATE OBITUARY

**CATHERINE STOVALL**  
Ms. Catherine Stovall, age 91, of Elba died Jan. 4, 2000 at the Elba

Nursing Home. At press time, funeral arrangements were incomplete but will be

announced by Coleman Funeral Home.

## Area students on Dean's List at LBW College

Lee Alan English of Elba was among 52 students named to the Dean's List at LBW College for the

1999 Fall Semester. To qualify for the Dean's List, English attended the semester with a full-time course

load and posted a 3.50-3.99 grade point average.

## Coffee on the Keyboard



Basic Computer Tips and Ideas for RAW Beginners

by Kenda Coffee Editor Opening Page



There is a great feature in Word that automatically numbers lists of things.

Every time you hit enter and start a new item the next number automatically is inserted for you. You start this procedure by clicking Format on the menu bar at the top, then selecting Bullets and Numbering. Choose a numbering style you like perhaps lower case letters in parentheses. Or numbers with periods after them or whatever your little heart desires. But once in a while you want to insert a note, an explanation, a credit or something that you do not want numbered then to continue the numbering with the item that follows. You can turn off numbering but when you start again you get #1 again. But there is a way to resume numbering where you left off.

When you've reached the point where you wish to insert text without being numbered, click the Numbering button on the Formatting toolbar again. Now select none. That means no numbering. Then go ahead and type the text you want to insert. When you are ready to resume numbering. Go back to Format, then Bullets and Numbering again, and reselect the numbering style you were using. Down at the bottom of that box it will say "continue previous list."

Click that and your numbering resumes where you left off. If you are concerned about health and immunity or the newest in cancer research look on Opening Page, www.openingpage.com

Kenda

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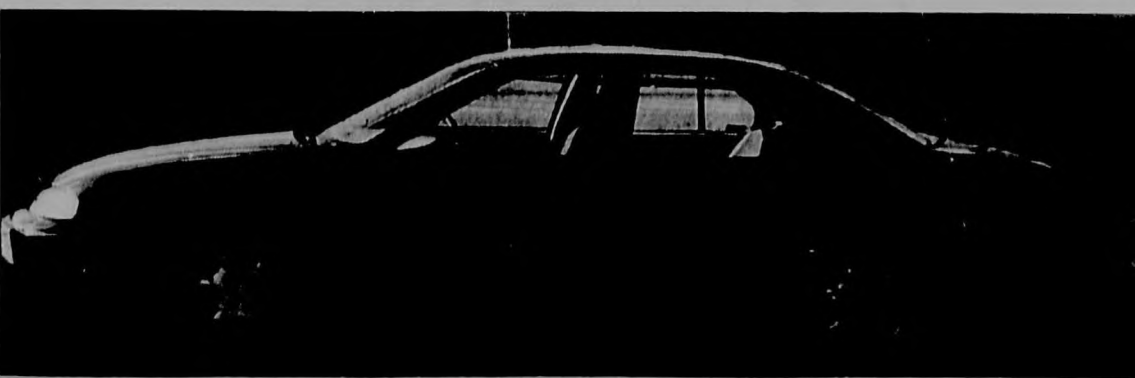
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**1998 Altima**  
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**1999 "new" Taurus**  
Loaded only **\$329<sup>95</sup>** per month\*

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ELBACHURCH



ELBA GIRLS  
PERFORM IN  
NEW YORK



TIGERS BEAT  
CLAYTON IN  
ROUND BALL



## The Elba Clipper

Volume 103, Number 31

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, January 13, 2000

1 Section, 14 Pages

## Elba resident voices opposition to proposed location of new post office

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council meeting was business as usual Monday evening until Judy Anthony addressed the city fathers concerning the proposed location of the new Elba post office.

to the flow would congest the area more and make the area harder to negotiate of all, she told the council members.

Acknowledging that officially the area is not in a flood zone, she pointed out that it was flooded in 1990 and 1998.

Addressing the drainage problem, she noted that water off the hill already gets into an outbuilding at her home and without addressing the problem she fears the situation will get worse with the new construction and parking lot paving.

"I am not against a new Post Office, I just don't want it on Claxton Avenue," Anthony told the city council. She later amended that statement by saying she didn't want it "past the red light."

Councilman John W. Sharpless, who also owns the property being considered, said, "The city council has not been asked anything about this location yet."

Mayor Grimes confirmed that and said he had personally presented all of the sites offered to the postal



JUDY ANTHONY ADDRESSES CITY COUNCIL

officials, drove around with them and pointed out each site. They made their own decision without any city officials being involved.

Grimes agreed with Anthony that Atlanta postal officials repeatedly say, "If there is a lot of community concern, we might have to reconsider this decision."

The official notice letter was posted in the Elba post office on January 6th, and the public has a 30 day window to express opinions on the decision.

Plans are for the City of Elba to construct the new facility and lease it to the U.S. Post Office on a 20 year lease. The City will borrow the construction money and pay it back

from the lease proceeds. Monthly bills totaling \$26,701.16 were approved for payment. They include \$4,241.72 for vehicle repair and maintenance; \$512.85 for chemicals; \$619.20 for annual membership to SE Alabama Regional Planning Commission; \$1,654.27 for recreation youth uniforms; \$652.52 advertising; \$976.65 for carpet cleaning in the Rec Center and \$9,120.00 as the City's share of the annual financial audit.

Police Chief R. W. Whitworth presented copies of the monthly and annual activity reports and reminded council members the department still needs two more radio operators for the 911 emergency radio. He explained that during a 911 call an operator can't leave that call for another call nor for any other reason until the matter is under control. Sometimes two 911 calls come in at the same time and with only one operator, the second has to go unanswered.

The mayor and council agreed that the Mayor should look into some promised additional funding for this position.

The city council approved three housekeeping resolutions. One was to make official the name of the engineering firm to handle the engineering services for the addition to the CDBG disaster recovery grant.

The second was for annual Administrative Services on CDBG grants, signed with SE Alabama Regional Planning and Development Corporation.

The third resolution was to authorize Mayor James Grimes to sign papers with AEC on the proposed \$300,000 speculative industry building.

City Clerk Donnie Morrow told council members that city crews were moving the old equipment to be sold back into the city lot. He added they were finding some engines and transmissions in the abandoned equipment which could be used in some of the running equipment.

Councilman Ronnie Hammond addressed the council on the installation of the drain pipes on Martin L. King Drive (MLK) and a drainage problem on Myrtle Street.

Morrow told him the city is waiting for the gas company to relocate a gas line before proceeding with the pipe installation on MLK. He added that the gas company was trying to time the work because cutting the line will cut gas service to half of Elba.

Addressing the Myrtle Street drainage problem, Morrow said, "It's useless, we have been waiting the reopening of the asphalt plant and getting either hot or cold mix to address that problem."

## Circuit Clerk Jim Ellis' retirement official

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

Long time Circuit Clerk Jim Ellis confirmed rumors which have been floating around the county for months Tuesday when he officially announced he is retiring, effective January 18th. Ellis has served as Circuit Clerk since January 1977. He served four 6-year terms, the last three of which he was elected to completely unopposed. He made his retirement official in a recent letter to the Administrative Office of Courts (AOC).

"I plan to take some time for myself," Ellis said Tuesday morning. "I want to get in a lot of fishing and work on my golf handicap." He added that even though he had no immediate plans other than relaxing a little, the farm and community activities would probably keep him pretty busy. If not, his wife Becky, who has not retired, will probably have some suggestions for him.

Ellis said he had enjoyed his tenure in public office and expressed thanks to the people of Coffee County for allowing him to serve in the office for four terms. "There are some great people in Coffee County, and I am probably going to miss being with people the most. I am a people person," he said as his eyes gazed off into space.

Mr. Ellis joined the Coffee County Judicial System in 1972, as a probation/judicial assistant with Superior Court Judge Fleetwood Carley. It was a pilot program, funded with a LEPA grant, designed to get the courts directly handling the probations, rather than going through DHR, known then as "the welfare office". It was the first such program in Southeast Alabama. He was elected to the Circuit Clerk's position in the fall elections of 1976 after then clerk Gladys Clark announced her pending retirement.

Ellis beamed when he talked about the dedicated and efficient employees he has had in both the Elba and Enterprise offices. He said he had been blessed in that regard because no one can operate an office like this without such assistance. "Their loyalty and dedication can never be fully repaid," he added.

When asked what his creed had



Circuit Clerk Jim Ellis

His first term coincided with the beginning of new court procedures mandated in the Alabama Judicial Article constitutional amendment. The Superior Court was changed to District Court, small claims court established, major rule changes took effect and the office went from a commission fee to salary position.

Over the years the Clerk's office has become completely automated with computers, old files are on microfilm, etc. and Alabama is one of the model states in the United States for court system operations.

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parties in February of this year and will face the voters in June primaries. If the appointed clerk elects to run for a full term, he or she will be busy learning the system and carrying out the duties in what Ellis calls "a working position" and at the same time canvassing for votes in an ever growing Coffee County population.

Commissioner Doug Dalrymple asked Charles Webb, chairman of the CCECB, to explain to the group why he felt it was necessary to make the change in the road number of Co. Rd. 709.

Prior to his explanation, Webb

been for these past 24 years, Ellis again looked off into space and explained he had been heavily influenced by the late Judge Ernie Paul, "who was my mentor before entering politics and until he died."

He said Judge Paul counseled him on getting into politics, on life and on operating this office. "I still remember him telling me that life is not about things and possessions but about relationships with people and to make sure to treat each individual with dignity and respect and to provide service with courtesy and a smile."

The current term of the office will not expire until January 2001, which means that according to the Alabama Constitution, the three sitting Circuit Judges of the 12th Judicial Circuit will have the responsibility of appointing a replacement to finish out the term of office.

Both Circuit Judge Robert W. Barr and Circuit Judge Tom Head confirmed that they met last week and discussed the pending appointment. Again, both confirmed that they intend to meet again this week and hope to have a replacement named before Ellis leaves office next Tuesday.

Candidates for a full six year term of office will begin qualifying with their respective parties in February of this year and will face the voters in June primaries.

Commissioner Doug Dalrymple asked Charles Webb, chairman of the CCECB, to explain to the group why he felt it was necessary to make the change in the road number of Co. Rd. 709.

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## Deadlock vote leaves Co. Rd. 709 as is

by Marvin McIlwain, Editor

The Coffee County Commission held its first meeting of the year 2000 on Monday and zipped through a relatively short agenda in less than an hour.

Consuming most of the meeting was the discussion of whether or not to change the road number of a section of now Co. Rd. 709 as requested by the Coffee County Emergency Communications (E-911) Board (CCECB) in the December 13th commission meeting.

A number of individuals who live on Co. Rd. 709 were present to voice their opposition to the change. Homer Jackson, spokesman for the group told commissioners, "I've lived in that community for about sixteen years now, and since that time I've gone through three changes of address. Unless you've done that several times, you don't know what a pain it gets to be - notifying all the people that you have to...I just don't see the reason behind changing the highway number for about a quarter of mile or so."

Commissioner Doug Dalrymple asked Charles Webb, chairman of the CCECB, to explain to the group why he felt it was necessary to make the change in the road number of Co. Rd. 709.

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said, "When we designed the E-911 system, we did so with the goal being to make every address in the county easy to locate. As we have refined the system, we find that there were some areas where we, the people who have been working on this, feel some mistakes were made...probably this particular issue should have been caught earlier, but it wasn't."

Webb told commissioners, and those present, the original problem is that Co. Rd. 709, which runs from Co. Rd. 708 across AL Hwy. 167 and on to AL Hwy. 134/U.S. Hwy. 84, goes in and out of the Enterprise City Limits between AL Hwy. 167 and AL Hwy. 134 two different times.

He explained this is a potential problem due to the fact that the portions of 709 that enter the Enterprise City Limits become streets with names (in this case Three Notch Road) in lieu of county roads with numbers. Also, the numbering system used by Enterprise's E-911 in assigning addresses along these streets is different than the one used by the county.

Webb said these two differences could cause a delay in emergency responders reaching an individual making an E-911 call.

His initial recommendation was to change the portion of Co. Rd. 709 between 708 and AL Hwy. 167 to Co. Rd. 746, and let Co. Rd. 709 originate from AL Hwy. 134/U.S. Hwy. 84; however, he agreed with a recommendation from Commissioner Dalrymple and County Engineer Randy Tindell, who have both looked at the situation, that it might be better to let the portion of 709 between Co. Rd. 708 and AL Hwy. 167 remain as is and change the portion of 709 between AL Hwy. 167 and AL Hwy. 134/U.S. Hwy. 84 to Co. Rd. 746.

"I certainly don't have any problem with what the road number is, but the residents on it have got a problem and that is the reason I asked for this explanation why it needed changing," said Commissioner Dalrymple. "If they want it changed, I'll certainly vote for it to be changed."

After several minutes of discussion with several opinions being offered as to what should or should not be done, it was determined that nothing could be done until the original motion was "untabled" and

brought before the commission for a vote.

Commissioner Doug Dalrymple made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Grimley, that the original motion made in the December 13th meeting to accept CCECB's recommendation be returned before the commission for a vote. The vote was unanimous to "untable" the matter.

With the original motion now before the commission to change the road numbers as suggested by the CCECB, Commissioners Robert Stephens, Kaye Lewis, and Len Averett voted in favor of the change. Commissioners Doug Dalrymple, Tom Grimley, and Linda Westbrook opposed the change while Commissioner Bernest Brooks abstained. This means Co. Rd. 709 will remain 709 from Co. Rd. 708 to AL Hwy. 134 except where it passes through the Enterprise City Limits.

Webb expressed his concern for the safety of individuals living on the Co. Rd. 709 due to the potential problem of emergency responders (fire, rescue, law, etc.) locating their residence in a timely manner. "I'll be happy to leave it alone and if someone gets hurt out there, I'll feel bad, but I've done my part," he said.

Turning to another matter concerning emergency service, Chairman Lewis read a letter from New Brockton Mayor Britt Lee requesting \$1,000 per month for nine months to be used to subsidize the

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## NOTICE

The City of Elba offices will be closed on Monday, January 17, 2000, in observance of Martin Luther King's Birthday. There will be standby crews for any emergency with electrical, water, street or sewer. Call the Elba Police Department at 897-2555 to report any emergency. The garbage collection schedule is unchanged.